Another programme being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, namely, Swayamsidha, aims at holistic empowerment of women through, among other things, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes.

To give special focus on the skill training development of women, the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment has set up a Women's Training Directorate which aims at promoting participation of women in skill training. Under the Women's Vocational Training programmes, institutionalized skill training is being offered to women in basic, advanced & post-advanced skills for improving the employability of women in wage/self-employment. In the State Sector, a network of exclusive Women Industrial Training Institutes (WITIs) have been set up under the administrative control of the State Governments.

Special provision for reservation for women:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 stipulates that at least one third of the beneficiaries of the schemes implemented under Act shall be women.

Some State Governments such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have schemes of reservation for women in Government service.

Creating a positive and congenial work environment for women workers:

A number of protective provisions favouring women have been incorporated in the various labour laws such as Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Factories Act, 1948, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 etc.

Assistance to women job seekers:

The Employment Exchange take special care to cater to the job needs of women registered with them.

Creches for children of working women

†1469. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open "Shishu Palan Kendras" to look after the children of poor working women in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Palan Ghar (Creches) being run as on date along with the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers to open new creches in the country.

(b) and (c) The Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- per creche at the start for infrastructure and Rs. 42,384/- per creche per annum for recurring expenditure. Each creche would provide day care services, supplementary nutrition and health care for 25 children.

(d) Under the scheme 22,038 creches are functioning across the country. Details about location of creches is available on our website

Integrated Child Development Schemes

1470. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets set and achieved under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been shortfall in operationalization of sanctioned projects under ICDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to operationalize all the projects of ICDS including Anganwadi Centres in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) State-wise number of ICDS Projects sanctioned, targeted for operationalisation and made operational during last three years is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The ICDS is a Centrally sponsored Scheme implemented through States/UTs who are responsible for operationalisation of sanctioned ICDS Projects/Anganwadi Centres. There was shortfall in operationalisation of sanctioned Projects in some States in 2003-04 and 2004-05. However, the pace of operationalisation picked up in 2005-06. As a result out of 5652 sanctioned Projects targeted for operationalisation in the year 2004-05, 5642 Projects have become operational, as on 30.9.2005.